Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

Message Text

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PAGE 01 WARSAW 04623 071756Z

42
ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 DRC-01 CU-04 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15

USIA-15 /099 W
---------- 035240
R 071551Z SEP 73
FM AMEMBASSY WARSAW
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0000
AMEMBASSY ROME

C O N F I D E N T I A L WARSAW 4623

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, PL, IT
SUBJ: OLSZOWSKI VISIT TO ROME ON AGAIN

REF: A) ROME 5484; B) WARSAW 3290

1. ITALIAN AMBASSADOR TOLD ME THAT A VISIT BY FOREIGN MINISTER OLSZOWSKI TO ROME IS SCHEDULED TO BEGIN NOVEMBER 8 WITH AN OFFICIAL PROGRAM OF TWO OR THREE DAYS TO BE FOLLOWED BY ANOTHER TWO OR THREE DAYS OF SIGHTSEEING IN ITALY.

2. THE AMBASSODOR COMMENTED THAT HE IS CONVINCED THAT OLZOWSKI WILL VISIT THE VATICAN AND BE RECEIVED BY THE POPE.

3. COMMENT: THE EMBASSY WAS TOLD BY TWO POLISH JOURNALISTS IN LATE JULY THAT THE OLSZOWSKI VISIT TO ROME WAS ON AGAIN, PROBABLY IN OCTOBER. ONE OF THE SOURCES SAID HE HAD BEEN APPROACHED ABOUT ACCOMPANYING OLSZOWSKI. AS REPORTED BY REF B., OLSZOWSKI'S MEETING WITH MONSIGNOR CASAROLI AT HELSINKI IN EARLY JULY WAS PROMINENTLY REPORTED IN THE POLISH PRESS. SUCH A MEETING COULD HARDLY HAVE TAKEN PLACE WITHOUT SOME DISCUSSION OF THE POSTPONED OLSZOSKI VISIT TO ROME(REF A) AND OLSZOWSKI'S REPORTED DESIRE TO MAKE SUCH A VISIT ONLY IF HE COULD BE RECEIVED
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PAGE 02 WARSAW 04623 071756Z

BY THE POPE UNDER CIRCUMSTANCES WHICH THE GOP WOULD

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

CONSIDER FAVORABLE TO ITS POSITION VIS-A-VIS THA POLISH
ESISCOPATE. SINCE CHURCH-STATE RELATIONS IN POLAND HAVE
SOURED OF LATE ON THE ISSUE OF EDUCATIONAL REFORM, IT
SEEMS CURIOUS THAT OLSZOWSKI WOULD FIND AUTUMN MOR
OPPORTUNE THAN SUMMER IF HE WERE CONCERNED THAT SUCH
A MEETING WOULD WEAKEN THE GOP IN INTERNAL CHURCH-STATE
RELATIONS. A MORE LIKELY EXPLANATION IS THAT THE GOP MAY
FEEL MORE SECURE NOW THAN IT DID IN JUNE TO MANAGE THE
REACTION TO THE POLISH ESISCOPATE'S ATTACK ON THE EDUCA-
TIONAL REFORM AND MAY WELL BELIEVE THAT AT THIS JUNCTURE
ITS HAND WOULD BE STRENGTHENED IN CHURCH-STATE RELATIONS
BY A PAPAL RECEPTION OF OLSZOWSKI. CONVERSELY, THE
POLISH EPISCOPATE, PARTICULARLY CARDINAL WYSZYNSKI, WOULD
BE UNHAPPY ABOUT THE POPE'S RECEIVING A RANKING REPRESENT-
ATIVE OF THE GOP AT A TIME WHEN THE CHURCH'S PROGRAM FOR
CATECHISM FOR RURAL YOUTH IS THREATENED BY THE EDUCATIONAL
REFORM PROGRAM.
DAVIES

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NNN

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MINISTERIAL VISITS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 07 SEP 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: morefirh
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973WARSAW04623
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS DAVIES
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: WARSAW
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730947/aaaabinp.tel
Line Count: 79
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: A) ROME 5484; B) WARSAW 3290
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: morefirh
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 12 SEP 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <12-Sep-2001 by freemaal>; APPROVED <05-Nov-2001 by morefirh>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: OLSZOWSKI VISIT TO ROME ON AGAIN
TAGS: PFOR, PL, IT, (OLSZOWSKI, STEFAN)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

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